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Talisman Energy to lay off staff: Sources

LABOUR Calgary's oil and gas sector isn't finished paring back after indications a major energy player is set to lay off workers.

According to undisclosed sources, Metro has learned Talisman Energy employees received an emailed video message from senior management yesterday, indicating that widely expected layoffs would be announced today.

The email didn't say how many of Talisman's estimated 3,000-member international workforce would be let go.

Talisman Energy is an upstream oil and gas company based in Calgary with international operations focused on North and South America and Southeast Asia.

The company is also undergoing a restructuring as it splits its gas operations into conventional and shale gas divisions. **METRO CALGARY**

News on the Move

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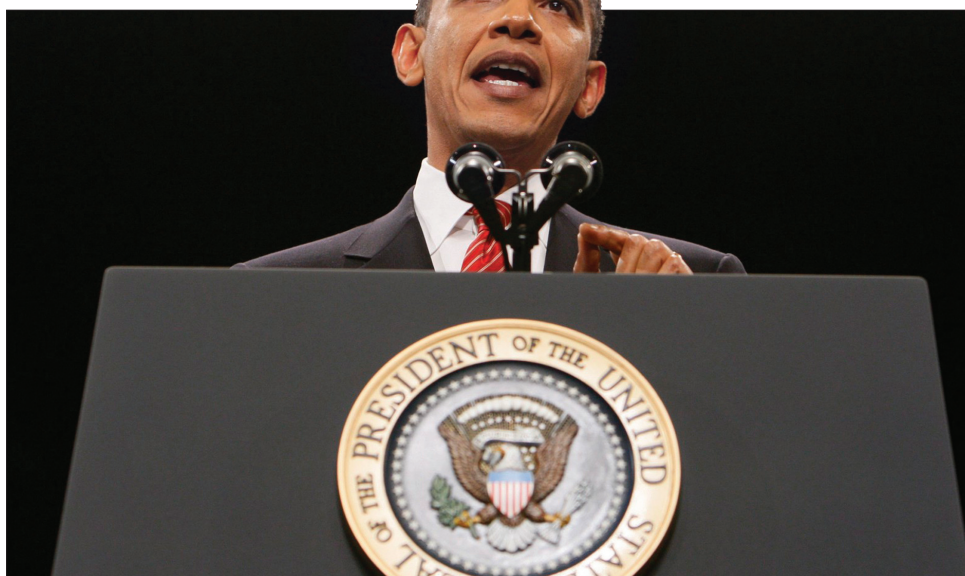


Celebrity Buzz pg 24

Lambert's father suggests apology



On the web
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U.S. President Barack Obama speaks about the war in Afghanistan last night at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Obama announced the U.S. will send an additional 30,000 troops to the country. **More coverage, page 10.**

NATO puts Canada in charge of tactical area

Leadership in Afghanistan's Arghandab to change by new year

Before the backdrop of U.S. President Barack Obama's long-awaited new Afghanistan strategy, NATO commanders are putting Canada's military command in charge of the tactically vital Arghandab district north of Kandahar city.

As a result, two full battalions of troops already in the country — one American, the other Afghan — will come under the control of Brig-Gen. Dan Menard, the commander of the Canadian contingent known as Task Force Kandahar, by the new year.

"You'll get all these guys

Speech reaction in Afghanistan

- U.S. President Barack Obama's highly anticipated speech on his new war strategy in Afghanistan has yet to draw much reaction from Canadian soldiers there.
- The speech aired at 5:30 a.m. in Afghanistan and is expected

to prompt an official reaction from Canadian commanders later today.

- Obama said he was sending an additional 30,000 troops to the country and expressed the hope NATO allies would also contribute more troops.

together focused on Arghandab under the command of Dan Menard," said Brig-Gen. Frederick

Hodges, director of operations for NATO's southern command.

"I think that's a signifi-

cant manifestation of the importance of that place on the city."

Under U.S. army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, NATO has signalled its desire to shift the focus of counter-insurgency efforts to urban

areas; Kandahar has been singled out among them.

Many Kandaharis consider the Arghandab as an extension of the city, where security and development are already Canada's responsibility.

The U.S. army battalion that's currently posted to Arghandab — a unit known as the Strykers — has been reassigned to secure the major highways in Kandahar. Since taking control from the Canadians this summer, the Strykers have suffered heavy casualties caused by IEDs, including 21 deaths.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province, city ink ring road agreement

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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TRAFFIC Calling it an important step to move forward on the southwest ring road, the City of Calgary and the Alberta government have signed a memorandum for the route.

The planning study will take until December 2011 to complete, according to the government, but is an integral part of the planning process and will examine potential routes, connection points and environmental issues, among other things.

"The planning study will look at an effective solution to address the immediate traffic issues for Calgary residents and enhance connections to the provincial highway network," Alberta Transportation Minister Luke Ouellette said of the mandatory study.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier applauded the study and said the city will still begin construction on the interchange at 37th Street SW in spring of 2010.

"City council is taking decisive action to address our mobility needs in southwest Calgary," he said, adding the city will continue to work with the province. "Today's announcement is a major step forward."

The signed memorandum sets out each party's roles and responsibilities during the study phase and outlines items for future discussion and negotiation.

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Local



U of C remembers massacre

University of Calgary students and faculty gathered in remembrance yesterday commemorating the 20th anniversary of the murders of 14 women at L'École Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. Dec. 6 was subsequently named Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The white ribbon, pictured at left, is worn as a symbol of that cause. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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City exploring dog park fees

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

User-fee dog parks may be on the horizon, depending on the results of a feasibility study approved by council yesterday.

Council approved the study to come back next year to explore a user-fee system to fund maintenance in the city's off-leash dog parks, according to Ald. Brian Pincott.

"Besides more off-leash dog parks, the number 1 thing people said they wanted was better maintenance so we have to find a way to pay for that," Pincott said.

Suggested upgrades include, among other things, additional garbage cans and dog bag dispensers, but Pincott said the fee would be challenging to implement.

"Perhaps we could charge five to 10 dollars a year for an extra tag on the dog's collar, as an example, so we are not charging



City is looking at ways to fund the development of additional dog parks, and is looking at user fees as one possibility.

non-dog owners to use the park."

New off-leash parks, to be spread throughout the city by 2011, were also approved in order to ease the burden on what Pincott calls "heavily used" existing parks.

Julie Orton, an avid off-leash dog park user, brings her black lab to the River Park often, but would not pay a user fee.

"It's the responsibility of the dog owners to pick up after themselves and keep the park clean," Orton

said, adding fines against neglectful dog owners should be stricter to pay for costs.

Ald. John Mar suggested city officials look into corporate sponsorships as an option to pay for the maintenance costs.

Council OK's donation limit for city election campaigns

DARREN KRAUSE
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If at first you don't succeed — try, try again. After a few past attempts to rein in civic campaign financing, aldermen approved a donation limit for future municipal election campaigns at yesterday's council meeting.

A notice of motion brought forward by Mayor Dave Bronconnier resulted in a cap on candidate donations at a maximum of \$5,000 — for either aldermanic or mayoral candidates. This also includes donations in-kind.

"I do think the public's interested in transparency. This is far from perfect in accountability, but at least

Donations

• Aldermen also agreed on a voluntary declaration for proceeds exceeding campaign spending to be donated to charity if the candidate didn't run for council again.

it addresses some of the issue head on," said Ward 12

Ald. Ric McIver.

Ward 11 Ald. Brian Pincott agreed this was a good starting point.

"It actually shows to Calgarians that we actually are serious about doing something around campaign finance reform," he said, adding that he didn't want to ignore Calgarians' concerns after the last election.

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metrotube of the day

CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com
notes the following deaths in our community:

ADAMS, Kathleen Margaret
BARBU, Florinel
BEARSPAW, Eric Sykes
BOUCHER, Mary (May) Morrison
CHAPMAN, Cayley Maureen
COOK, Shaun Robert
DAVIES, Kelvin Hugh
DRISCOLL, Anne Edith
DURDLE, Cheryl Dawn
FORD, Elsie I.
FRIEZE, Randy Louis
GERIAK, Maria "Mary"
GILLIS, John Ronald
HARRISON, Dorothy Opal
HERMAN, Lillian (nee Schafer)
KOWALSKI, William (Bill) Siegfried
KUNTZ, Johanna (Jenny)
MCARTHUR, Helen Martha (nee Doerksen)
MCNEILL, Helen Margaret
MOLNAR, Imre (Jim)
PEEL, Gwyneth Violet (nee Jones)
RUNDLE, Evelyn
SELOCK (nee Metcalfe), Barbara Frances
WRIGHT, Reginald A.

For full obituaries go to
CalgaryObits.com

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Alongside the new U.S. strategy for Afghan war, Canada gears up to refocus on Kandahar city at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs TFC's Paul Beirne joins It's Called Football to discuss a bid by the Argos to play games at BMO field.

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The Alberta government is warning the public about an unlicensed payday lender in Calgary called Call4Cash that is refusing to meet new regulations introduced in September. The government ordered the company to cease operating as a payday lender as of Nov. 30 until it's properly licensed. **METRO CALGARY**

Help aid holiday hampers

AIDS Calgary seeking \$21K to assist clients in stressful time

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

For those living with HIV or AIDS, the holidays can be an extra stressful time of year, according to a local AIDS charity organization.

AIDS Calgary marked the 21st anniversary of

World AIDS Day yesterday by launching the annual holiday hampers program, according to spokesperson Amanda Chapman.

"The holidays for our clients can be very stressful emotional and financially, and we just want to help alleviate some of that stress for them and make the holidays a bit easier,"

Chapman said.

The organization is trying to raise \$21,000 to fill 140 hampers, up from 107 the year before, but said Calgarians can also donate items like toothbrushes, bus tickets, toilet paper and laundry detergent.

"It doesn't have to be just money, we need a lot of basic items too that

maybe some of our clients have trouble affording."

Chapman said each year the need for donations has been rising, especially this year with the economy.

Donations will be accepted up until Dec. 21, when the hampers will be personally delivered to clients. For more information visit aidscalgary.org.

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Team Metro captures the Golden Helmet in yesterday's media bobsled challenge at Canada Olympic Park. From left: Metro Calgary managing editor Darren Krause and Metro readers Chris Thompson and Greg Poapst.

Metro takes top spot in media bobsled challenge

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

OLYMPIC PARK Anytime you have to sign a waiver to participate, there's a strong chance it'll be one heck of a good time.

And it was. All 59.75 seconds of it as Team Metro — comprised of readers Greg Poapst and Chris Thompson, along with a professional driver and I — out-slid seven other media teams in the inaugural COP Bobsleigh Media Challenge, which was presented by Sony yesterday at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary.

Initially, Winsport Canada CEO Guy Huntingford drew our name last — putting us in a position to watch as all other competitors posted top-notch recreational bobsled

times.

All it took was a little bit of "encouragement" for our pushers at the top of the hill to sling us a little swifter down the 14-turn, 1,500-metre track, reaching speeds of 124 kilometres per hour and on to a winning time.

As a reward for our victory, Sony provided Poapst and Thompson with some serious swag. For their efforts, the pair took home Sony's latest digital SLR camera — the Alpha. I took home the Golden Helmet, which will be displayed with pride at the Metro Calgary office.

As for the ride itself — exhilarating. It's only \$150 per person for an authentic slide down an Olympic track, complete with the 4.5 Gs pushing down on your body.

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Oilsands companies won't meet waste rules, study says

STANDARDS A new study suggests that few of Alberta's oilsands companies plan to meet tougher government rules on cleaning up their waste.

Last February, the province's energy regulator made those rules stricter, partly in response to public concern about vast, toxic tailings ponds, which are now about the size of the city of Vancouver.

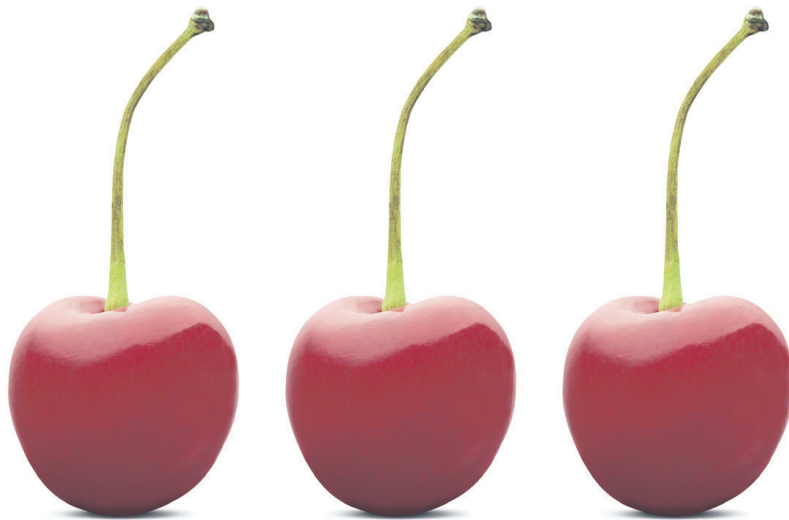
The new rules say that

companies must start removing solids from the tailings by 2011 and then remove them to a stable disposal area.

But a Pembina Institute review of company plans suggests that only two out of nine oilsands projects will meet the new rules.

The think-tank says some companies don't plan to come up to the new waste standards until 2023.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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A federal private member's bill aims to cut through the red tape hampering generic drug companies from shipping cheap HIV/AIDS drugs to developing countries. CBC News Online reports that MPs will today review New Democrat MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis's bill, designed to reform Canada's access to medicines law. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Bill aims to help foreign HIV/AIDS sufferers

Canada

MAPLE LEAF GARDENS

Gardens revitalized

There will be blades on the ice again at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens. Ottawa is contributing \$20 million toward the \$60-million plan to turn the hockey shrine into an athletic facility, rink and grocery store, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday. Ryerson University will contribute \$20 million and Loblaw Companies Ltd. will partner with Ryerson to raise the remaining \$20 million. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Memorial boycotted

'Hypocritical' Tories blamed

Opposition critics boycotted a non-partisan ceremony yesterday marking the 20th anniversary of the Dec. 6 l'Ecole Polytechnique massacre, saying they couldn't stand alongside the Conservative status of women minister.

Liberal, NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs who sit on the House of Commons status of women committee argued that Tory policies have rolled back the fight for women's equality and safety.

They pointed to the Conservative government's elimination of the court challenges program and to

the move to abolish the gun registry — something that some Liberal and NDP members also support.

"We consider this (ceremony) a hypocritical gesture because her government has shown itself from the beginning to be hostile to all women's demands," said Bloc MP Nicole Demers.

Liberal MP Anita Neville said: "I find it difficult to stand beside a minister who chooses not to advocate for women, who chooses to follow the party line, who chooses to endorse the elimination of the long-gun registry."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Minister of State (Status of Women) Helena Guergis places a red rose among 14 white roses during a ceremony to commemorate Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women on Parliament Hill yesterday in Ottawa.

Tories hiding job numbers: Grits

ECONOMY The Harper government is well aware of how many jobs are being created through its massive infrastructure stimulus spending, but is embarrassed to publish the numbers, the Liberals are charging.

The Conservatives have always maintained that they do not track the job creation that stems from their \$16-billion effort to cushion the blow of the recession.

But Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy produced paperwork yesterday from the Ottawa-Ontario agreement on the Infrastructure Stim-

ulus Fund. The form shows that the federal government required municipalities to report how many jobs they expected to create.

Kennedy said similar protocols exist for other stimulus programs such as the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and Recreational Infrastructure Canada, requiring recipients of federal money to report how many positions they intend to create, and over what time period.

"They know. What they don't want to do is tell," Kennedy told reporters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

POLITICS The House of Commons has voted in favour of holding a judicial inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees, but the majority motion will likely be ignored by the governing Conservatives.

LAWSUIT Vancouver International Airport has denied any responsibility for the death of Robert Dziekanski in a statement of defence to a lawsuit filed by his mother. Dziekanski died at the airport in October 2007 after four RCMP officers stunned him

with a Taser, and his mother is now suing the officers, the airport, and the federal and provincial governments.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Quebec Liberals accused of turning famed daycare program into a "pay-to-play" scheme. Scan this barcode for the full article.

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Military to testify at helicopter inquiry

The Canadian military will testify at an inquiry into offshore helicopter safety that was called after a fatal chopper crash off Newfoundland in March. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Doctors singled out by Kenney

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney is singling out doctors for not co-operating with federal efforts to speed up recognition of foreign credentials.

The government announced a plan this week that would give some foreign-trained workers an answer within a year whether their credentials will be recognized in Canada. But the professions in

Rebuttal

• Canada's largest professional body representing doctors, The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, says it already gives foreign-

trained doctors feedback on their credentials in much less than a year — within four to six weeks in most cases.

the first phase of the framework includes only architects, engineers, pharmacists, physio and occupational therapists,

and registered nurses. Kenney said the medical profession was reluctant to come to the table, despite the shortage of doctors in

Canada.

"Here we have a profession that is much in demand in Canada, and we have foreign-trained doctors who are not given places to practice," he told the House of Commons immigration committee yesterday.

Doctors aren't scheduled to be included in the one-year recognition plan until 2012. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Ottawa Museum workers' strike



Julie Hughes, a public service employee with 30 years of experience, holds a sign during a rally of striking museum workers on Parliament Hill yesterday in Ottawa.

Harper urged to push for rights

COALITION Prime Minister Stephen Harper is being urged to use his first visit to China to push for improved human rights.

The Canadian Coalition on Human Rights in China says Canada must show moral courage in addressing rights issues with Chinese authorities.

It says Canada must be clear that human rights are key to its relationship with China. The coalition denies that it would be counterproductive for Harper to raise the touchy subject during this week's visit. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Female ski jumpers to seek leave to appeal to Supreme Court of Canada

OLYMPICS A group of female ski jumpers hope to take their fight to be part of the 2010 Winter Games to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Lawyers for the women were expected to file a request before the country's highest court yesterday, seeking leave to appeal a lower court decision that found the Charter of Rights does not apply to which sports are included in the Olympics. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Because the Games are about two months away, a spokesperson for the women said they are asking the Supreme Court to expedite their decision on whether they'll hear the case and then also make a fast decision.

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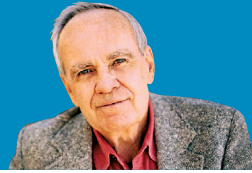
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HarperCollins spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said yesterday that just two weeks after publication, Sarah Palin's memoir has sold one million copies, attaining platinum status. The print run for *Going Rogue* has been increased to 2.8 million copies. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

World



McCarthy selling typewriter

Writing the next Great American Novel but need a little inspiration? Consider the 1958 Olivetti that Cormac McCarthy used to write his novels, including *The Road* and *No Country for Old Men*. Both books were turned into movies. Christie's will auction McCarthy's metal dinosaur Friday and says it could sell for \$15,000 US to \$20,000. A blue carrying case and the author's letter of authentication will be included. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

30,000 more troops Afghanistan-bound

Obama sets 2011 deadline for pullout

President Barack Obama, in a defining moment of his presidency, announced he would deepen the U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, sending 30,000 more troops to fight the Taliban despite Americans' growing pessimism about the war.

Obama tempered the commitment by pledging that the first troops would return by July 2011 and stressing that Afghan forces would be rapidly trained to take over the fight. He also called for additional commitments from U.S. allies and pledged to strengthen ties with Pakistan, where al-Qaida and Taliban fighters

have been based.

The troop buildup will begin almost immediately - the first Marines will be in place this month - and will cost \$30 billion for the first year alone.



Obama

Following previous increases, it will almost triple the force Obama inherited on taking office.

"I do not make this decision lightly," he said. "I make this decision because I am convinced that our security is at stake in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The long-awaited, na-

tionally televised speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point was a political gamble for Obama, whose popularity has fallen as he struggles to win support for a health care overhaul and deal with rising unemployment and a soaring budget deficit.

Republicans said setting a timetable for withdrawal shows weakness. But the speech was also bound to unsettle the liberal base of Obama's Democratic Party. Obama won the party's nomination partly because of his opposition to the Iraq war - a conflict he took pains to distinguish from Afghanistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India World AIDS Day



Traditional Bihu dancers participate in an event to mark World AIDS Day in Gauhati, India, yesterday. Nearly 2.5 million people in India are infected with HIV, the AIDS virus, but talking about the disease and sexual health issues in general is still largely taboo.

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Injuries consistent with crash: Lawyer

WOODS Tiger Woods did not appear to be driving under the influence and showed no signs of having been in a fight in the minutes after his car crash outside his mansion, a lawyer for the neighbours who dialled 911 said yesterday.

Woods' injuries were "consistent with a car wreck and inconsistent with him being beat up," lawyer Bill Sharpe said. "The scratches on his face were consistent with someone who maybe was in a minor car accident and hit his head on the windshield. ... None of his injuries looked like he was beat up by his wife."

In its initial accident re-

\$164 fine

• The Florida Highway Patrol says it will issue Woods a careless driving citation in relation to the crash. He faces a \$164 fine.

port, the Florida Highway Patrol said Woods collided with fire hydrant and a tree, and that alcohol was not involved.

Sharpe said neighbour Linda Adams and her two sons went outside after hearing the crash and Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, who was kneeling beside him, asked them to call 911.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man wanted for shooting cops killed

CRIME The man suspected of gunning down four police officers in a coffee shop was shot and killed by a patrolman investigating a stolen car yesterday.

Four people were arrested for allegedly helping the suspect elude authorities during a massive two-day manhunt.

Maurice Clemmons was carrying a handgun he took from one of the officers when a Seattle police officer recognized him near a stolen car in a south Seat-

m.metronews.ca



"He stole my technique," quips infamous shoe-throwing Iraqi reporter after dodging getting hit himself. Scan this barcode for the full article.

tle neighbourhood about 2:45 a.m., Assistant Police Chief Jim Pugel said. The officer ordered Clemmons to show his hands and stop, and fired when he refused. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Special Purchases and currently advertised items. Styles vary by store.
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metro

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

12 world

Mom smothers baby on flight by accident

A breast-feeding mother accidentally smothered her four-week old child aboard a United Airlines flight from Washington, D.C., to Kuwait, a British tabloid reported yesterday.

The Sun newspaper said the mother, who it said was a 29-year-old Egyptian-born woman, fell asleep as she breast-fed on the jet and awoke to find that the child had been smothered. The paper said the plane was diverted to London's Heathrow in an attempt to save the baby's life.

The paper cited an unnamed police source in its reporting. Scotland Yard confirmed that a United Airlines plane had been diverted to Heathrow in late

November after reports that a four-week-old girl was in distress.

The police said in a statement that the baby was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead. It added that an autopsy had been performed, but results were still pending.

"The death is being treated as unexplained and the Child Abuse Investigation Team is investigating the circumstances," the statement said.

Scotland Yard did not go into further detail, although Britain's Press Association news agency reported that such investigations were standard practice. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Protected witness in drug corruption case shot dead

MEXICO CITY Gunmen burst in to a Starbucks coffee shop yesterday and killed a former policeman who was a protected witness in a drug corruption case, the second death of a high-profile witness in Mexico in less than two weeks.

Edgar Bayardo was gunned down in the upper middle-class Del Valle neighbourhood of the capital, and a man with him was severely wounded, city prosecutor Jaime Slomianski Aguilar said. Another customer who apparently had nothing to do with Bayardo also was wounded.

Shell casings lay on the shop floor between the door and the counter. The killing bore all the hallmarks of an organized

Ex-investigator

- Bayardo was detained in 2008 on suspicion of collaborating with the Sinaloa drug cartel, as part of a large-scale cleanup of drug corruption. Soon after, Bayardo, a former federal police investigator, was freed from house arrest and declared a protected witness.

crime execution.

Two assailants entered the shop and, without saying a word, opened fire on Bayardo with an automatic weapon, authorities said. They fled with a third accomplice in a waiting vehicle that the attackers abandoned a few blocks away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tempers flare in health-care debate

HEALTH A Republican senator contended yesterday during raucous floor debate that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul will shorten the lives of seniors by cutting federal coverage for the elderly.

"I have a message for you: You're going to die sooner," said Republican Sen. Tom Coburn, an obstetrician-turned-lawmaker.

A senior Democrat decried such comments as "scare tactics" designed to kill legislation that he said would improve some benefits for the elderly. As the Senate pushed toward the first votes on the legislation, the debate recalled

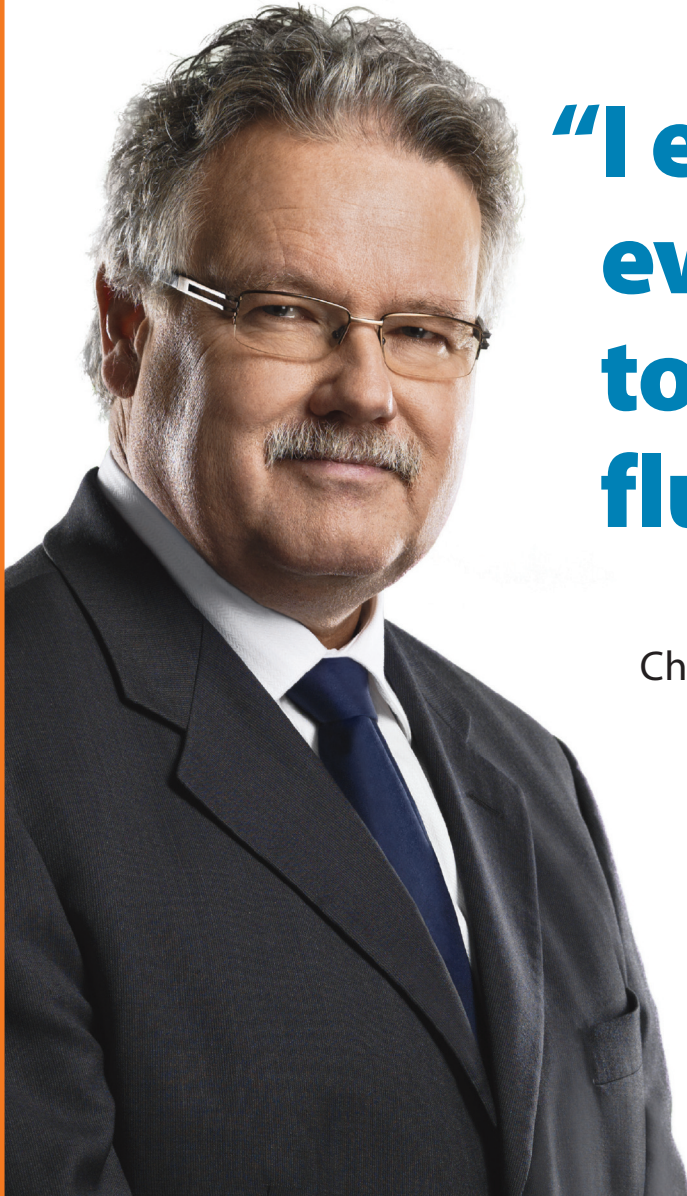
31M insured

- The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that 31 million uninsured individuals would receive insurance if the bill were enacted, many of them assisted by federal subsidies.

the raw charges of the summer's town hall meetings. The Senate was debating an amendment by Republican Sen. John McCain that would strip from the bill more than \$400 billion in Medicare cuts to home health providers, hospitals, hospices and others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONews.CA

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Comment

Changing our channels of thought

TheWestView



metronews.ca/thewestview

t looks as if Al Jazeera is coming to a TV near you. Maybe as close as your living room, if you have cable.

Last week, the CRTC approved Al Jazeera English (AJE), the Qatar-based Eng-

lish-language version of the most popular news network in the Muslim world, and the cable companies are lining up to carry the signal.

This is in marked contrast to the last round, in 2003, when its sister network, AJA (Al Jazeera Arab), tried for a licence in Canada and was vigorously opposed. This time, there were 2,600 submissions to the CRTC in favour. What a difference a few years makes.

I don't know if, as Al

Jazeera claims, that the AJE and AJA are really two different organizations. I mean, really. But according to the CRTC, AJE "will expand the diversity of editorial points of view in the Canadian broadcasting system." And we're all for that.

Of course, if you stop to think about it for a minute, that seems to imply that there is no one standard, grade-A version of the truth, and the only way we can snag that elusive commodity is to net it

with a diversity of editorial points of view.

If news organizations such as Al Jazeera (and to be fair, Fox News, the BBC, Global, NBC, CBC, etc.) were all as objective as they claim to be, wouldn't they all be broadcasting the same, true stories?

And how far will we go with this diversity of editorial opinion notion? If TTVN (Taliban TV Network) wanted access to the nation's living rooms, how would the CRTC respond?

Let me point out quickly that I'm pretty much in favour of the AJE application. I know its managing director Tony Burman pretty well. We used to work together at the CBC and spent many shifts trying to figure what to put on or what not to put on The Journal. There was nothing in his demeanour to indicate terrorist tendencies. Once in a while he got a little grumpy, but that might have been the takeout we were forced to consume.

Still, if objectivity and truth exist totally in the eye of the beholder, will we ever really have any basis for agreement?

This problem is nothing new. In fact, it originated in the Middle East, even before the invention of television. It was called the Tower of Babel: Mass confusion, 24/7.

Is it really so different today?

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Who do you support in the cable TV vs. local broadcaster debate?

Dionysius David
Calgary

A: Depends on how you look at it because it is a business, but on the flip side consumers should be able to opt out of the services if they have to pay extra.

Max Richards
Calgary

A: I think they are just trying to pull the wool over their eyes and my support is with the local cable companies. I think they are being bullied.

Erica Woods
Toronto

A: I think that both cable channels and network channels are greedy ... Cable is fairly expensive already, so this is price gouging. I agree with neither.

Orri Sachar
Vancouver

A: To be honest Canadian TV isn't all that important to me. I don't watch it much myself so I wouldn't pay extra. I don't really support bailing out cable stations that made mistakes along the road.

Mary Jones
Bedford, N.S.

A: I really feel strongly we have to keep local TV. I think they should get the money support from the government.

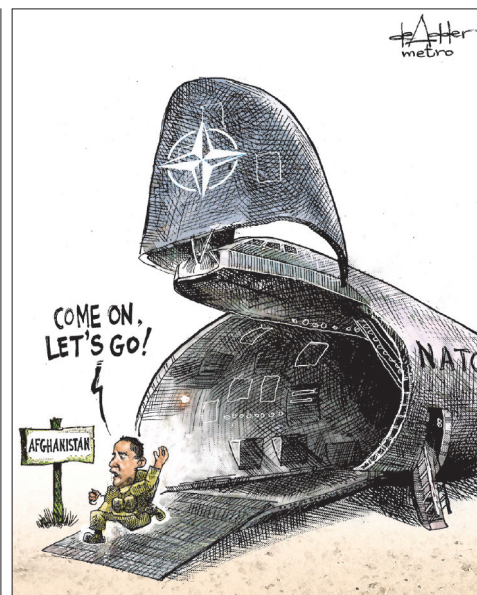
Zane Julian
Ottawa

A: Local stations, for sure. People watching local TV shouldn't have to pay more for it. I don't agree with that. If cable companies are going to get our money, they should be supporting Canadian shows.



Tell us your views by email to calgaryletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrocalgary

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number - street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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GM CEO resigns

General Motors Co. CEO Frederick Henderson stepped down yesterday after the board determined that the company wasn't changing quickly enough. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

15

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONWS.CA

Automaker sales jump from last year

Toyota reports record boost for November

Canadian sales for many automakers jumped in November, due in large part to the fact that last November was when the industry — and the economy — collapsed.

But big jumps in car sales numbers weren't due solely to year-over-year comparisons — Toyota and Hyundai both reported record sales for the month of November, a sign that consumers are increasing-

26.2 The percentage Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. reported it was up from a year earlier.

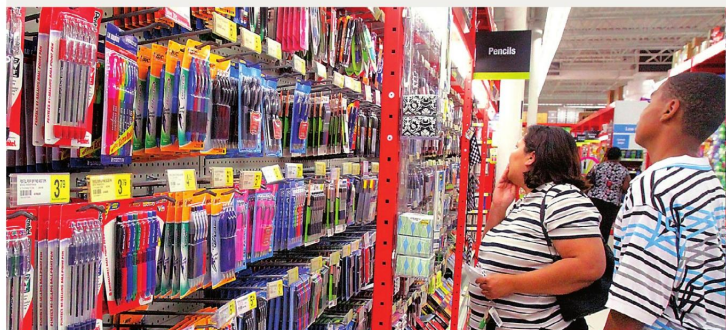
ly willing to spend money on big-ticket items like cars. Toyota Canada said yesterday that it sold 14,829 vehicles in November, up 27.4 per cent from a year earlier. This boost was led by truck sales,

which were up 54.1 per cent. The luxury Lexus division sold 1,283 vehicles, up 11.4 per cent to its best November on record.

Meanwhile, Hyundai is quickly distinguishing itself as an able competitor with the five companies that traditionally lead the pack in terms of Canadian market share — General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, Honda and Toyota.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Illinois Supplies in demand



In this August photo shoppers browse the aisles looking for supplies at the Staples Office Supply store in Springfield, Ill. Staples Inc. provided an upbeat view of its prospects yesterday.

Growth will be sluggish: Bank

ECONOMY Scotiabank's chief economist says North American economic growth will be sluggish in the coming months as the global economy struggles to get a recovery off the ground.

Warren Jestin told a conference that inventory adjustments, particularly in the auto sector, will drive growth as companies ramp up production.

Jestin warned that developed economies could risk weakening again

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barrick eliminates all its gold hedges

GOLD Barrick Gold Corp. has eliminated all of its gold hedges ahead of schedule, the world's largest gold producer said yesterday.

The news sent Barrick's shares up by \$3.55 or 7.9 per cent to \$48.41 in afternoon trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The hedges had limited Barrick's ability to take advantage of rising gold prices, although they also were designed to protect the company from lower prices.

The Toronto-based company said yesterday that its positive view on gold prices spurred a decision to speed up the elimination of its hedges.

Barrick announced in September it would eliminate all its gold hedges within 12 months.

To fund the gold hedge elimination, it issued equity for net proceeds of \$3.9 billion US in September, and \$1.25 billion in new long-term debt securities in October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

REDEMPTION Telus Corp. announced yesterday it plans a partial early redemption of \$1.95 billion in notes issued in

2001. The notes, which it issued in May 2001, are due June 1, 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Analysts remain cautiously optimistic for a slow and steady recovery after release of new economic reports. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Marc Savard is staying put in Boston for a while. The Bruins have signed the centre to a seven-year contract extension that will keep him with the club through the 2016-17 season. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sports



Ovechkin suspended

Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin, left, has been suspended for two games for a knee-on-knee hit on Carolina defenceman Tim Gleason Monday. Ovechkin hurt his knee in the hit and was pronounced "day-to-day" by the Capitals yesterday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Watch out for special teams

TheHockeyNews

John Grigg

thehockeynews.com

How does first place feel, Flames fans? Calgary is on a tear. A 6-2-2 mark in their past 10 games and a 10-2-2 record for the month of November, vaulted the Flames past the upstart Colorado Avalanche to first place in the Northwest Division and put more distance between themselves and the Vancouver Canucks, the team most figured Calgary would battle for the division crown.

Now I don't want to

douse any good feelings, but coach Brent Sutter and his charges do have some concerns: Special teams.

Prior to Monday's bout with the equally hot Nashville Predators, the Flames power play was ranked 19th and its penalty kill 18th. After a two-for-two performance with the man advantage and the successful kill of all three of the penalties they took, the Flames moved up to ninth on the power play yesterday morning and 17th when a man down.

A perfect showing is a good sign for the Calgary's special-teams, because the Flames are tempting fate and doomed to a post-season letdown if things don't turn around. As the stats jump shows, it's tight in the NHL. And that's all the

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more reason to be wary of a troubling trend, namely that Sutter-coached teams in New Jersey the past two years weren't exactly special-teams standouts, either. And now in Calgary the same thing seems to be happening. Jarome Iginla and Olli Jokinen up front and Jay Bouwmeester and Dion Phaneuf on the points should be a recipe for extra-man success. And Mikka Kiprusoff in goal, Bouwmeester and Robyn

Regehr clearing the crease, and proven penalty killers Daymond Langkow,

In reality, the power play actually got worse statistically during the second month of the season, falling 11 percentage points; and while the PK did jump a little, anything less than 80 per cent is unacceptable and way off the league's best.

Maybe these are two groups still finding their way within new systems. Maybe it's a coach still trying to discover how best to use the assets he has. Or maybe it's just been bad luck. But whatever the problem, it'd better get solved. Fast.

The Hockey News
@thn.com



Canadian speedskater Jeremy Wotherspoon smiles at a press conference in Calgary yesterday.

A closely watched return

SPEEDSKATING

Jeremy Wotherspoon has been on two new boots and one new blade for about a month now, and the speedskating star is ready to truly initiate his fresh gear when he makes his season debut at this weekend's World Cup in Calgary.

The native of Red Deer hasn't raced in an international competition since breaking his left arm in six spots during a fall in last year's season-opener in Berlin, and his return is

one of several things Speed Skating Canada officials will be keeping a close eye on at the event.

Everyone is curious about how he'll do, especially Wotherspoon himself.

"I'm pretty interested to see how it goes," he said yesterday before practice at the Calgary Olympic Oval. "It's been a slower start to the season than I would have liked but I'm feeling better."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	378	179	204	383
5. Rick Kit	ON, CA	376	168	207	375
6. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	375	158	213	371
7. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	367	157	212	369
7. Matty Strathearn	NS, CA	372	161	208	369
7. Tom Collier	NS, CA	375	168	201	369
10. Lorne Willmott	ON, CA	354	163	205	368
11. Cole Warren	NS, CA	379	137	230	367
12. B Fillmore	BC, CA	372	136	228	364
12. Brian B	AB, CA	377	161	203	364
12. Derrick Yee		365	150	214	364
12. Kelly Wrisshko	AB, CA	376	154	210	364

* Results exclude Quebec



Self-govern or face contentious zoning bylaw, Vancouver warns UBC

Metro Vancouver is warning the University of British Columbia that if it will not take responsibility for its own governance, the city will impose a contentious zoning bylaw, reports the Vancouver Sun. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Downturn hits Alberta trades

Shifting demographics and the recession are affecting staff levels among construction trades, which will likely affect apprenticeship enrolments at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, say industry and school officials. Even as ground clearing is underway for the \$445-million Trades and Technology Complex at SAIT, officials say a decline is likely in the number of students applying to trades programs. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

'Tis the season to give back

'Tis the Season

Over the next few weeks Metro's Workology section will be shining a light on some of the jobs that pop up around the holiday season and disappear just as quickly afterwards. Check back every Wednesday.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

As the holiday season revs up, children's charities swing into gear as well, hoping to provide toys, hope and a lot of joy to kids in the greatest need.

Across Canada, the Children's Wish Foundation takes aim at making kids' dreams literally come true by fulfilling their personal wishes, no matter what they may be. The organization works with donors, and volunteers to fulfill requests from eligible kids between the ages of three and 17 who are diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses.

Paul St-Germain, a director at the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, says that after 25 years of fulfilling wishes for children, the people involved with Children's Wish know one thing is for certain:

Kids' wish requests are as creative and varied as they are.

Disney World visits and celebrities meet-ups top the list, such as the case of one girl with Leukemia who wanted to meet Robin Williams — she did, handing him a hand-drawn collage of all the animated characters he's ever voiced while Williams spent the day with her in between film takes.

From one girl in Manitoba who dreamed of having her own white horse to a young boy on the East Coast who's only wish was to have his grandparents be able to move closer to him

from Edmonton, kids have come up with some real doozies and Children's Wish has made sure to follow through.

"Each wish is a unique as the child who wishes it — no two wishes are the same. We're dedicated to working within the community to let children with life threatening illnesses to realize their most heartfelt wish," St-Germain said.

For kids whose families are enduring hard times, joys of the toy variety can be few and far between and toy drives throughout the country try to provide kids with a little bit of play-time joy.

"It's tremendously rewarding to be able to know you're providing a sense of joy to kids — it's incredible," said John Murray, spokesperson for the Salvation Army, which collect toys for kids every year. To help contribute toys or

volunteer with the Salvation Army, visit salvationarmy.ca or call 1-800-SALARMY.

To help make a child's wish come true with the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, visit catalogueofwishes.ca to view a virtual catalogue of wishes and help contribute things or help volunteer.





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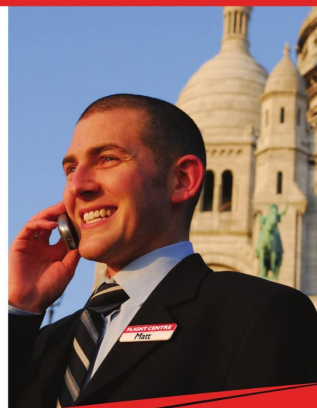
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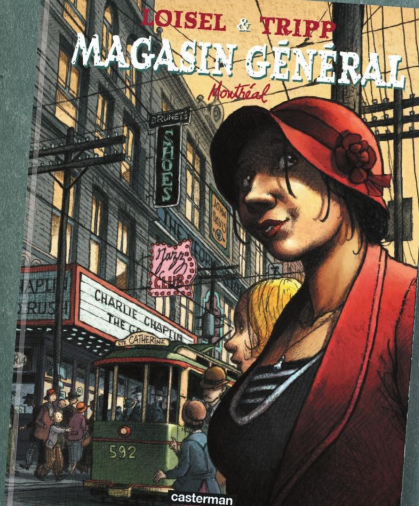
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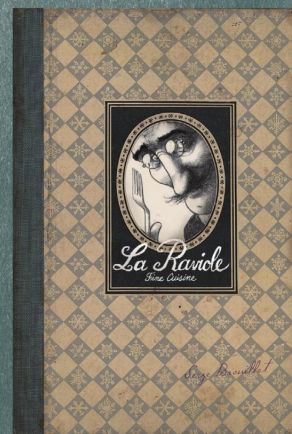
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A new online brochure is available for Canadian drivers, giving the facts about winter driving and the advantages of winter tires. The brochure is available at the tire industry's tire education website, Be Tire Smart. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Acura ZDX: Road thrill

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada



This month, Acura is launching its bravely styled new brand leader, the 2010 ZDX crossover. Like the BMW X6, this similarly profiled soft-roader unabashedly advertises its form over function. Unlike the four place Bimmer, the ZDX will seat five, but it doesn't have as much cargo capacity as the compact Honda Fit.

Fine. So Acura's new luxury crossover will be an emotional, right brain purchase. In that context, it's a pretty cool rig.

Acura's new grinning metallic grill looks most at home here, parked on the front of this intriguing wedge with the origami edges and all-glass roof. With "hidden" rear door handles and an extreme

2010 Acura ZDX

Type: Luxury crossover
Price: from \$55,990
Engine: 3.7L SOHC V6
HP: 300
Torque: 270 lb-ft

Highlights

- Athletic performance
- Impressive interior
- Built in Canada

fast-back profile, it tricks the eye into thinking it's a two-door vehicle.

Motivation comes from the MDX's 300 hp 270 lb-ft 3.7L SOHC V6 hooked to an all-new six-speed auto with paddle shifters.

It also shares the MDX's SH-AWD (super handling all wheel drive) with torque vectoring rear differential that overdrives the outside rear wheel when cornering.



The ZDX is built in Alliston, Ont., along side the Acura MDX, from which it gets its platform and most mechanicals. The interior features an organic flow of curves and top-shelf materials.

The Acura MDX is certainly one of the more athletic full-sized SUVs, so it's no surprise the ZDX takes this athleticism a step further with its lower centre of gravity and reduced curb weight.

Over the twisty canyon roads of our test loop, this four-door SUV/CUV coupe thingy never put a wheel

wrong. While you can't feel the active diff working, you know it is because of the ZDX's quick turn in and fluidity through the bends. Suspension tuning finds a good balance between body control and comfort and the hydraulic steering has good feel.

The ZDX's interior is the nicest effort I've seen

Things of beauty

Award-winning car writer and design critic Stephen Bayley explores the 86 most beautiful cars ever produced in his latest book *Cars: Freedom, Style, Sex, Power, Motion, Colour, Everything*. The jaw-dropping black-and-white photos of the cars are alone worth the hefty \$80 price tag.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



from this company, featuring an organic flow of concave and convex curves and top-shelf materials. Hand-sewn full-grain leather covers the lower

sweep of the dash, door panels and seats.

For more reviews of the latest cars, visit: metronews.ca/autoreviews



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When the Millennials go marching in

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot



In preparation for the North American launch of the Fiesta at the L.A. auto show today, Ford did extensive research on Millennials — people who are reaching driving age in the Twitter era.

The Millennials are coming! They're coming over the hills, armed with newly minted driving licenses, numerous texting and music devices, and a whole bunch of unique to them expectations about the automotive experience.

I say we run for cover. But the automakers can't wait to embrace them, no doubt already tired of dealing with cranky baby boomers and their ever-changing lifestyles, as well as the generation after that, those jaded generation-X types.

The Millennial Generation is variously referred to as Generation Y, Generation Next, the Net Generation, or the Echo Boom. Either

way, they are the demographic with birth dates between the mid-1970s and the 1990s — the children of the baby boomers.

Some automakers are more than ready to fulfill their needs. But before you do that, you have to figure what are their needs are, and how they tick.

One company that did lots of research in this area was Ford, in preparation for the North American launch of Fiesta, which precisely

targets Millennials.

The North American Fiesta actually debuts today, at the L.A. auto show. Last week some auto scribes, including yours truly, were in Dearborn, Mich., to get a "deep dive" into everything Fiesta. Sheryl Connelly, Ford's global trends and future manager, told us what Ford had learned about Millennials. So here are the bullet points (paraphrased)...

• They grew up in the era of

miniaturization of products, mostly electronics. Consequently, they understand bigger isn't necessarily better.

• They don't yet have an auto brand they are loyal to.

• They never expect to be disconnected from their friends and activities, via electronic communication things. Being in a car should not disrupt this whatsoever.

• They are used to being chauffeured in their parent's upscale vehicles. They wouldn't know what to do with a window crank. Living rooms have central air and DVD players, and so do SUVs.

• They're not interested in "making do" with cheaper products, like an econobox starter car. They have a sense of entitlement.

• Automakers, and other marketers, need to use non-traditional media to get the word out to these people. Twitter, not television.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



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Go green this holiday

If you want to be green this holiday, take the bus or train, but if you must fly, stick with economy seating, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. UCS researchers compared trips by car, plane, train and bus to find out which transportation choices generate the fewest emissions. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Travel



A place to put up your paws and relax

Furry travellers now have a place to stretch their legs at Atlanta's airport. A new fenced-in dog park is part of the ground transportation centre on the west end of the passenger terminal at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The 93-square-metre park, which opened last month, can accommodate two pooches at a time and features flowers, grass, rocks, benches and two original pieces of art.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Discover Obama's 'lost years'

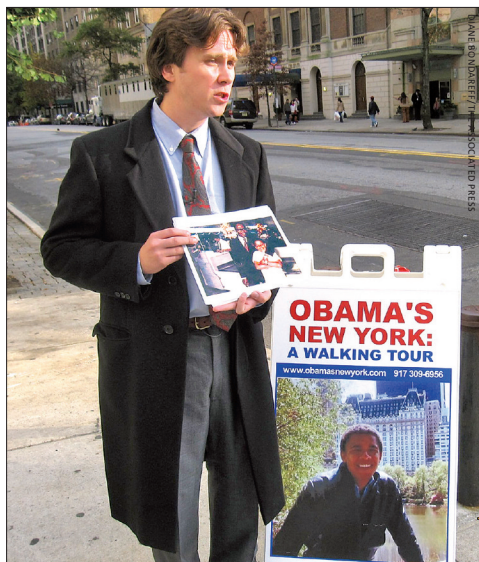
New York tour shows where the U.S. president cut his teeth

Jeremiah Miller calls the time Barack Obama spent in New York "the lost years," because that period from 1981 to 1985 is not as well-known as his roots in Hawaii or his recent years in Chicago. To fill in the gap, Miller offers a tour of Upper Manhattan called "Obama's New York."

The two-hour \$25 walking tour includes stops at Columbia University, a Harlem subway station, and the street where the man who now sleeps in the White House once slept in an alley.

"I became intrigued by the fact that not much is known about his life during this period, but this was a pivotal time for him," said Miller. "He was searching for himself. He felt he didn't fit in. That's why he came to New York — to find community."

Obama completed his college degree at Columbia University in 1983, having transferred there as a junior from Occidental College in Los Angeles. After college, he worked in Harlem for the New York Public Interest Research



The Obama walking tour takes tourists through the places that shaped the U.S. President's intellectual roots.

Group, a job that led to community organizing in Chicago.

Obama even opens his memoir, *Dreams from My Father*, with a scene in New York. It was the day he got the news that his

Kenyan father was dead.

Miller reads a passage from the memoir while standing on 109th Street near Amsterdam Avenue, where, Obama wrote, "I spent my first night in Manhattan curled up in an

"He may not have found his community, but he did find himself."

Jeremiah Miller

alleyway."

He was supposed to stay in an apartment at 142 W. 109th St., and eventually he did move in, but nobody was home when he arrived.

After several other stops, the tour ends by hopping on the No. 1 train and heading uptown to City College in Harlem.

Here Obama worked for NYPPIRG, organizing students on issues like recycling. He also lobbied to have the 137th Street subway station cleaned up.

Miller contends that the time Obama spent in New York put the future president on a path of activism and community service that eventually led to the White House.

"It was where Barry the boy became Barack the man," Miller said. "He may not have found his community, but he did find himself." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Obama completed his college degree at Columbia University.

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metro

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

20travel



Canadians are spending more tourism dollars abroad while travellers here are tightening up their purse strings.

Travel deficit balloons to \$3.3B

Canada's international travel deficit widened to a record high \$3.3 billion in the third quarter from \$3.2 billion in the second.

Statistics Canada reports the main contributor was a 0.8 per cent decline in spending by foreign travellers in Canada between the second and third quarters to \$3.7 billion, its lowest level in six years.

At the same time, Canadians spent just over \$7 billion travelling outside the country, a 0.1 per cent in-

crease.

Travel spending by foreigners in Canada has fallen by 15.1 per cent since it peaked at \$4.4 billion in the fourth quarter of 2004 — the result of a drop in spending by American travellers in Canada.

Spending by American travellers in Canada decreased 0.4 per cent to \$1.8 billion, the lowest quarterly level in over 12 years.

Canada's travel deficit with overseas countries increased by \$152 million to

a record high of \$1.1 billion in the third quarter.

An increase in travel spending overseas and a decrease in spending by travellers from overseas countries in Canada were responsible for the higher deficit. Canadian travellers spent \$3.1 billion in overseas countries, up 4.3 per cent from the previous quarter.

Spending by travellers from overseas countries fell 1.2 per cent to \$2 billion.

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Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby, will become a stomping ground for some of the country's best known musicians next summer. The three-day music festival will feature more than 65 band, including Bon Jovi, Kenny Chesney, and the Dave Matthews Band. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Kentucky Derby festival to rock

Snowbirds can still get that Christmas feel

If you're one of those snowbirds who heads to Florida this time of year, you'll find lots of holiday displays — even without the cold weather.

St. Augustine celebrates Nights of Lights through Jan. 31 with light displays, a Winter Wonderland area

with ice skating, a refrigerated ice slide, and sleigh rides.

St. Augustine Historic Inns is sponsoring a Bed and Breakfast Holiday Tour Dec. 12-13, with a dozen inns showing off their holiday decorations each day. Each inn partners with a

Walt Disney does Christmas

• In Orlando, guests at Walt Disney World can attend Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party.

local culinary establishment to provide a signature treat for participants, and most will offer opportunities to meet local artists. Old Town Trolley

provides free transportation for tour participants who prefer to ride instead of walking to each inn on the tour.

In Delray Beach, a 30-metre-tall artificial tree, lit Dec. 3 with 15,000 lights, is a holiday centrepiece at Old School Square. A holi-

day parade follows on Dec. 12 with 70 floats.

At Epcot, you can learn about international traditions at Holidays Around the World, and hear the Christmas story told by celebrity narrators like Whoopi Goldberg.

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Travel in brief

CALIFORNIA The Republic Cafe in Salinas, Calif., served as a gathering place for the local Asian-American community for decades. Now federal funds are helping transform it into a museum and cultural centre. The renovation got a boost in November from a three-year, \$600,000 Department of Housing and Urban Development grant to California State University, Monterey Bay. The planned Asian Cultural Center and Museum is the centrepiece of the Chinatown Renewal Project, led by the city and university. Wally Ahtye, whose family owned the cafe, says the city's Chinese, Japanese and Filipino communities came together there, holding celebrations, weddings and Chinese New Year parties.

INDIANA If you're a fan of the classic Christmas movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, consider a visit to the hometown of Jimmy Stewart, who starred in the film as George Bailey. Indiana, Pa., 88 kms east of Pittsburgh, has a Jimmy Stewart Boulevard, a Jimmy Stewart Museum, a Jimmy Stewart statue outside the courthouse and even a local airport named for him. The museum is hosting matinees of *It's a Wonderful Life* every Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.

HANUKKAH Menorahs made from ice, Legos and chocolate will be part of some of the Hanukkah celebrations sponsored by the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish outreach organization in 650 cities around the world. The eight-day holiday begins at sundown on Dec. 11. Habad events will range from a Dec. 13 parade with over 100 cars decorated with Hanukkah flags heading to the Jacksonville Landing in Jacksonville, Fla., to a Hanukkah comedy night in Oxnard, Calif., on Dec. 15. Other unusual Hanukkah celebrations will include a Dec. 16 event featuring a menorah made from chocolate, candy and doughnuts in Houston, and a Dec. 14 Hanukkah party at Binghamton University in upstate New York with a menorah made from thousands of pieces of Lego. After it's lit, the Lego menorah will be disassembled and donated, along with hundreds of other toys collected in a toy drive, to an organization for children with cancer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Suri likes high heels

Katie Holmes doesn't think there's anything wrong with dressing her three-year-old daughter Suri in high heels. "Like every little girl, she loves my high heels," she tells Access Hollywood. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

23

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Conflict's intimate side

Portman studied her real-life counterpart for military wife role in *Brothers*

AARTI VIRANI
Metro World News

It's an overcast Saturday afternoon, and inside a swanky, Manhattan hotel room, Natalie Portman delicately sips on a cup of tea.

"I've been doing interviews since I was 12," muses the 28-year-old, almost incredulously. For her latest film, *Brothers*, in theatres Friday, she plays a mother — and a heartbreakingly courageous one, too — for the very first time.

It's tempting to assume the sole purpose of director Jim Sheridan's film, the tale of Sam Cahill, (Tobey Maguire) a Marine gone missing in Afghanistan, is to exhibit America's never-ending war. On the contrary, *Brothers*, which also features Jake Gyllenhaal as Cahill's wayward and fresh-out-of-jail brother, is an unflinching look at conflict's more intimate face — namely, the families it ravages and ruptures along the way.

"I don't think this is a very political movie," claims Portman. A welcome respite from the self-proclaimed "cute girl parts" that are often thrust her way, she plays military wife Grace Cahill with a tenaciousness that she attributes to her extensive research: She spent time with her real-life counterparts prior to shooting.

"I was surprised at how calm and strong these women were," Portman

says. "I guess it's a historical feminine trait ... to be able to rise to the occasion."

Portman is certainly on the rise, though she's getting tired of the constant shuttling that life as an A-list actress requires. "I'm a total gypsy," she confesses, "but at a certain point, you can't really have a life." She has just wrapped shooting in North Ireland for *Your Highness*, where she'll star as a committed princess defending her kingdom alongside James Franco and Zoëy Deschanel.

"I kick some serious ass in that movie," she says, grinning impishly.



Natalie Portman plays a mother role for the first time in her portrayal of military wife Grace Cahill in the drama *Brothers*. Also starring in the movie are Tobey Maguire (pictured) and Jake Gyllenhaal.

New comedy

Nicole Richie is to become a comedy star. The socialite has teamed up with US TV network ABC to create a new comedy show, in which she will also star. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**



Keys to launch a charity contest

PEOPLE Alicia Keys says her first visit to Africa was so emotional and inspiring that she is ready to take others there to experience something similar.



Alicia Keys

The Grammy-winning singer is launching a contest through her charity, Keep a Child Alive, that will give five people an opportunity to visit the continent with her. She says her initial trip to Africa "totally changed my life."

"Going to Africa was unbelievable for me," the 28-year-old said. Fans will be able to enter the contest online at the foundation's website, or by sending a text. The fee for the text is \$5, but it will be donated to Keep a Child Alive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brothers opens in theatres on Friday

critics' corner

Supernatural

In hopes of defeating Lucifer, Castiel (Jensen Ackles) decides to search for God — which, under the circumstances, would seem to be the kind of no-brainer that would have dawned on someone before now. Bobby's (Jim Beaver) friend Rufus (guest star Steven Williams) begs for help when demons attack his town, but Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles) discover the "demons" are mass hallucinations in "Good God, Y'all." 8 PM on SPACE



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

"I'm cuute! She said I'm cuute!" "Bumbles bounce!" "I wanna be a dentist." And of course, "Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" Ol' Rudy is 45 this year and as cute as ever, ready to delight the children and grandbabies of the viewers who met him back in '64. If you haven't seen this Christmas chestnut in a few years, it's always worth another look. 9 PM on KREM

	Vu SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/2/09	267 351 - ACCESS	Alberta Primetime (Live)	etalk	Access H.	(8:01) Eastwick (N)	Old Christine	The Middle (N)	The Vampire Diaries	Primetime	
	243 317 3 CFCN	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition	Omni News: Cantonese Edition	Omni News: Cantonese Edition	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Friends	
	- 4 OMNI	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Modern Family	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	Eastwick
	- 371 5 KXLY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (HDTV) (N)	Stars on Ice: On the Edge (N)	Bones (HDTV) (N)	Glee "Mattress" (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	The Hour
	245 306 6 CBRT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Melrose Place "June"	The Jay Leno Show (N)	Mercy	Le Téléjournal Nouvelles (SC)	Le Téléjournal Nouvelles (SC)	TJ Alberta	News Hour
	244 338 7 CICT	Ted Rogers	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Moment de vérité (SC)	Hauts	Local Programming			Your City
	246 - 8 CKAL	Local Programming								
	119 705 9 CBXFT	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)	Rudolph, Red-Nosed Reindeer	Grammy Nominations Concert	Criminal Minds			
	- 10 SHAW	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Planet Earth	Planet Earth	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	Planet Earth	Jay Leno Show		
	- 372 12 KREM	CBC News: The National	College Basketball Washington State at Gonzaga (Live)	College Basketball Washington State at Gonzaga (Live)	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National	Planet Earth	Jay Leno Show		
news	502 390 15 CBO	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance	Friends	According-Jim	Family Guy	
	- 370 16 KBC	The Vampire Diaries	PIX News at Ten Tong	PIX News at Ten Tong	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)	Two/Half Men	Friends	According-Jim	Family Guy	
	- 373 22 KAYU	Larry King Live (N)	The Joy Behar Show	Nancy Grace	Showbiz Tonight	The Joy Behar Show	World Poker Tour	E:60		
	297 652 37 WPIX	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Sportsnet Connected	Ultimate Fight		
	500 500 29 CNN	Boxing	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.	Hockey Central	Salt Lake	Score Now	Score Now		
	508 502 31 CNN2	Basketball	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Survivorman	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time		
	400 400 21 TSN	Survivorman	Pass Time	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Wizards-Place	Family Biz		
	408 418 27 net	Pink's Outtakes	Pass Time	Drake & Josh	That's Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	
	410 403 30 SCORE	Survivorman	Pass Time	Sonny Chance	The Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	
	411 457 44 OLN	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	
family	557 541 39 FAM	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	
	555 545 67 TCM	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	EarthWatch One	EarthWatch Two	Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama)	Amber Benson.	Home-Christ	
	575 583 11 COM	House-Sell	Confidential	Friends	Friends	I Didn't Know	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Say Yes-Dress	
	553 546 17 TREE	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Pregnant	I Didn't Know	Chopped	Ultimate Wedding Cakes	Unwrapped	White Collar	
	505 398 19 TWN	Iron Chef America	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	
	602 568 23 W	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits	The Guard	The Guard	Crash & Burn "Freedom"	Bones	Celebrity Para.	
	521 560 24 TLC	Newlywed	Newlywed	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out		
	603 561 25 FOOD	(7:10) Winter Stories ** (1999, Drama)	Denis Bouchard	Moon Over Parador ** (1988, Comedy)	(10:45) Spring Break (1983)					
	615 520 26 A&E	Mega Builders	Mayday "Crash Course"	Daily Planet	Mayday "Crash Course"	Mighty Ships				
	617 522 32 SHOW	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar	Law & Order	Without a Trace				
cable variety	601 562 33 SLICE	The Office	The Office	Sahara ** (2005, Adventure)	Matthew McConaughey, Steve Zahn.	The Office	Sahara			
	- 633 34 ENC2	Just for Laughs	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	
	- 539 42 TCM	Petritied	Dead End *** (1937, Crime Drama)	Sylvia Sidney.	Kid Galahad *** (1937, Drama)	Edward G. Robinson.				
	628 584 43 SPIKE	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV) (N)	Ice Pilots NWT (N)	Life After People	InnerSpace (N)	Stargate SG-1	Star Trek: Next Gener.			
	522 516 45 HIST	Outlaw Bikers	Supernatural (HDTV)	Vacation ** (1989, Comedy)	Young Frankenstein					
	627 528 46 SPACE	National Lamp. Christmas	(8:15) National Lampoon's Christmas							
	- 47 AMC	Project Runway Canada	King	King	The Outer Limits	ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy		
	619 525 49 TROP	Property Virgin	Unsellables UK	King	House Hunters	Unsellable	Intervention	Property Virgin		
	600 584 100 MTV	CTV News Tonight	News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	
	501 391 52 CTV	Squeeze Play	Commodities	Commodities	Market Call Tonight	Headline	Commodities	Squeeze Play	Missing	
cable variety	504 508 70 BNN	The Closer	Investigates	The Flummies	Wings-Canada	Sid vs. Alexander	Great Towns	Venturing Frth	Storytellers	
	526 507 92 VIVA	World News	News	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	Van. Nights	Sabor Latino	Gene Simmons	Entourage	
	269 350 93 APTN	Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtp10.ca	Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage	
	- 94 MCM	Secret Life of American Teen	Teen Mom Launch Special	Mixeur	Sport	TV5 Le Journal	Les Carnets du bourlingueur	SIDA, paroles de jeunes		
	571 581 100 MCM	(6:30) 16 and Pregnant								
	570 580 102 MTV	(6) Détonnez-vous								
	581 566 101 MTV									
	- 116 TV5									

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

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Disney

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Wednesday, December 2, 2009

24 entertainment

Celebrity Buzz

Adam's dad thinks he should say sorry

TRANSLATION: THERE'S STILL TIME FOR YOU TO GET A LAW DEGREE, SON Among the people who weren't thrilled with Adam's Lambert's controversial American Music Awards performance: His dad, usmagazine.com reports. "My dad was like, 'Maybe you should apologize, Adam,'" he said on The Ellen DeGeneres Show yesterday. "I was like, 'You know, dad, I don't feel like I did anything wrong. It just wasn't maybe the right judgment call. It's a taste thing more than an obscenity thing. I think it's just a taste level.'"

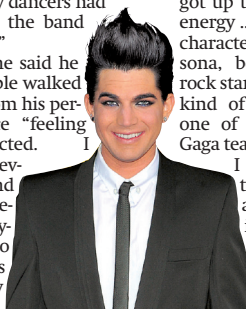
During his performance, he smooched another guy,

simulated oral sex and flipped off the audience. Looking back, "maybe that wasn't the best first impression to make again," Lambert, 27, says. "I mean, I had fun up there, I had a good time, my dancers had fun and the band had fun."

Still, he said he felt people walked away from his performance "feeling disrespected." I would never intend to disrespect anybody. So that was not my

intention."

He said that "people aren't used to seeing gay men portrayed that way on TV. The gay male image in the media tends to be very (clichéd) and safe ... I think I got up there and put more energy ... I was putting on a character, putting on a persona, being this kind of rock star, kind of dangerous kind of guy. After seeing one of my favorites Lady Gaga tear it apart on stage ... I don't know something came over me, and I got caught up in the moment and maybe went a little too far." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Taylor's jealous of Leighton

PLEASE LET THIS COME TO BLOWS A rivalry is reportedly brewing on the set of Gossip Girl over two of the show's stars' musical ambitions. Taylor Momsen is said to be upset that the show has thrown its support behind co-star Leighton Meester's singing career instead of hers. "Taylor is not happy

that Gossip Girl has been playing Leighton's music on the show, and they have never asked to play any of her songs," a source tells HollywoodLife.com. "It's creating a lot of tension on set." When pressed for comment, a rep for the show's network, the CW, doesn't mince words: "The show will support Taylor and her music when the time is right, but her music is not ready yet."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Nick will tour without brothers

HE'LL BE EASIER PREY FOR THE COUGARS Nick Jonas is going on tour without his brothers, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 17-year-old Jonas Brothers singer will play concerts across the U.S. next month with his side project The Administration after their debut at the Grammy nominations concert tonight.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lady Gaga learns to embrace her 'darkness'

MAYBE HER MUSIC WILL IMPROVE Lady Gaga struggles to cope with feeling low while out on the road but has now learned to accept her "darkness." "The lowest point is loneliness, being on the road. I have a chronic sadness that recurs," she said. "The lowest point was in Australia in May. I was overwhelmingly

sad, and I didn't know why because I had all these things to be happy about." Despite her black moods, the singer says her emotional state inspired her to write her best ever material.

She added: "I went to the studio and played for hours and I wrote what is going to be the greatest record of my career, a beautiful song about my father. 'I remember watching the mascara tears flood the ivories and I thought, 'It's OK to be said.' I've learned to love my darkness.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Russ meets Katy's preacher parents

BUT SERIOUSLY, WHAT GUY WOULD THEY APPROVE OF? Katy Perry has reportedly introduced bad-boy boyfriend Russell Brand to her parents — who just happen to be pastors. "Russell must go towards the light and not toward the darkness," Perry's mother, Mary Hudson, says, according to Hollyscoop. "Only God can take the very worst person and turn them around for good." Brand and Perry's father also exchanged copies of their respective books, even though Brand's book is about his previous experiences as a drug addict.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

David Spade doesn't get movies like other people do, Demi Moore is staying in tonight, Rob Thomas has really interesting errands to run, and Ice-T is dealing with some anger issues.

@davidspade just saw 'The road' . hilarious. wall to wall laughs. they will def make this into a sitcom

@mrskutcher Oh my a new season of Hoarders is on tonight!!!

@ThisIsRobThomas going into the city today for new tattoos!

@FINALLEVEL MAN I miss being able to punch suckas in the grill without gettin sued!!

METRO WORLD NEWS



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Today
Sunny. Chilly.
-1 °C / -12 °C

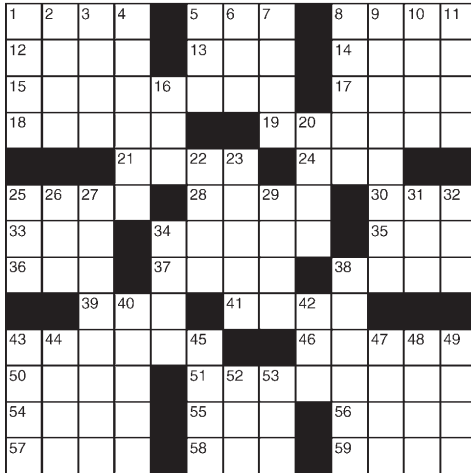


Thursday
High-level clouds.
-1 °C / -14 °C



Friday
Flurries.
1 °C / -9 °C

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Tater
5 Spade or heart
8 Name for a Dalmatian
12 Top-notch
13 — carte
14 Poi source
15 Stove type
17 From the start
18 Young hog
19 Don quickly
21 Sodium chloride
24 Violinist
Kavafian
25 "Clue" weapon
28 Rams fans?
30 Sajak or Summerall
33 Commotion
34 "Stop, sailor!"
35 Listener
36 Banned bug spray
37 1492 ship
38 Wan
39 Carnival city
41 Swallow hard
43 Rosebush protectors

46 Ruin
50 Drench
51 Deep-dish apple dessert
54 Church section
55 Past
56 Crystal gazer
57 Emeritus (Abbr.)
58 Scarlet
59 Brutus' being

DOWN

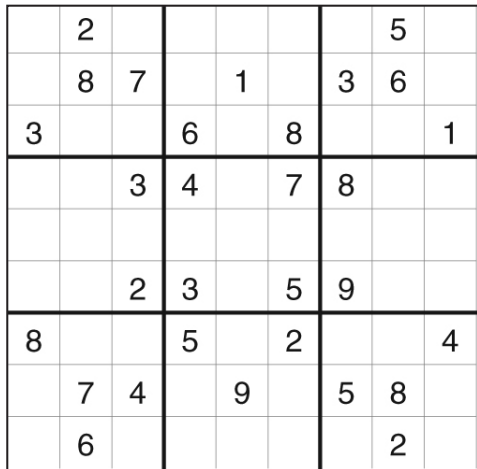
1 Enervates
2 Milne bruin
3 "Do — others ..."
4 Cheapen
5 Chum
6 Under the weather
7 Picks up the check
8 Wood finish
9 Instruments
10 Sandwich cookie
11 Burg
16 H, to Hellenes
20 Final
22 Strauss of

jeans fame
23 Nasality
25 "Awesome, dude!"
26 Peculiar
27 Braised beef
29 Birthright barterer
31 "That feels so good!"
32 Attempt
34 In due time
38 Place near
40 Seeing 58-across
42 1960s hallucinogen
43 Despot
44 Crosby co-star, often
45 Practise pugilism
47 Has bills
48 Mid-month day
49 Muse's harp
52 Time of your life?
53 Affirmative action

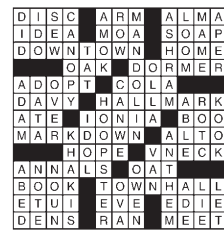
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



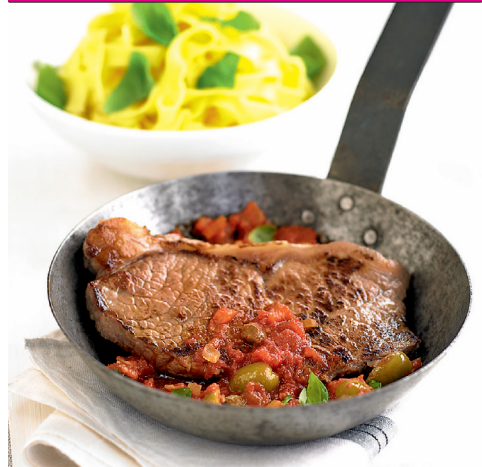
6	2	4	7	3	1	5	9	8
8	3	1	9	6	5	4	7	2
7	5	9	4	2	8	6	3	1
3	9	5	6	1	7	8	2	4
4	1	8	3	5	2	7	6	9
2	6	7	8	4	9	1	5	3
5	8	3	2	7	4	9	1	6
1	4	2	5	9	6	3	8	7
9	7	6	1	8	3	2	4	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Pan-fried Steaks with Italian Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

4 sirloin steaks, trimmed
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
14 oz (398 ml) can chopped tomatoes
6-3/4 tbsp (100 ml) white or red wine
2/3 lb (300 g) tagliatelle
1 tbsp (15 ml) capers, drained and rinsed
12 pitted black or green olives, halved
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh basil

METHOD:

1. Rub steaks with 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil and some black pepper. Heat large frying pan; cook steaks, about 2-1/2 minutes per side for rare, 4 minutes per side for medium, and 7 minutes per side for well done. Remove to plate using slotted spoon and

keep warm.

2. Add remaining oil to pan, then add onion and garlic, and cook gently 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in tomatoes and wine. Cook gently 5-10 minutes, stirring occasionally to break down tomatoes.
3. While sauce is cooking, cook pasta according to package instructions. Drain. Stir capers into sauce with olives and basil; season to taste.
4. Return steaks to frying pan to heat through, spooning sauce over meat. Divide pasta among four plates. Serve steak and sauce over top.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20



There really is no such thing as luck: Bear that thought in mind if someone tells you that you've been lucky. You created that "luck" for yourself.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23



Someone will make you the proverbial offer you cannot refuse today but if you are smart you will do just that — there'll be a better offer coming soon.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21



Don't let today's full moon get you down. Soon you'll realize that what it took away from you is what you no longer need — in fact, it was in the way.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22



You may be finding it hard to make ends meet but what happens today will remind you how well off you are in more important ways.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21



Although there is a full moon in your sign this is still potentially one of the best times of the year for you, so make the most of it.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21



There's no point judging yourself by others' standards. In fact, the full moon urges you not to judge at all. Accept everything and everyone.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22



You need to be more enthusiastic about what you are doing, especially on the work front. Think of your job as being fun, and most likely it will be.

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20



Why waste so much energy trying to do things that don't come naturally to you? Play to your strengths if you want to be happy and successful.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23



Sit back and take what comes your way over the next 24 hours and trust that, on balance, it will be pleasant. Don't turn down a social invitation.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18



If ever there was a time to make an extra special effort that time is now. Your efforts will be supported by people who want to see you do well.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22



It is important that you make an effort to patch up any minor disputes you may be having with partners and loved ones.

PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20



If you are faced with a big problem today you must attack it in a big way. Don't pretend it does not exist or it does not really matter — because it does.

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